

Serial No. 10/604,008
Filed: June 20, 2003
Page 2 of 17

Examiner: Amy J. Sterling
Group Art Unit: 3632

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A gas cylinder base for supporting in an upright position thereon a gas cylinder having a base ring comprising at least one base ring aperture therethrough, the gas cylinder base comprising:

a base skirt having a first lateral dimension, and

a support element extending upwardly from the base skirt, defining a second lateral dimension less than the first lateral dimension, and adapted to slidably receive the base ring of the gas cylinder, the support element comprising at least one fastener for attaching the gas cylinder base to the gas cylinder,

wherein the at least one fastener is adapted to engage the base ring to attach the gas cylinder base to the gas cylinder.

Claim 2. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the first lateral dimension is greater than the diameter of the gas cylinder.

Claim 3. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the support element further comprises at least one aperture therethrough.

Claim 4. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 3 wherein the at least one aperture is threaded.

Claim 5. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 4 wherein the at least one fastener is threaded.

Claim 6. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 5 wherein the fastener is a thumb screw.

Claim 7. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 5 wherein the at least one fastener is threadably inserted into the at least one aperture.

Serial No. 10/604,008
Filed: June 20, 2003
Page 3 of 17

Examiner: Amy J. Sterling
Group Art Unit: 3632

- Claim 8. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 5 wherein the at least one fastener is provided with a point at an end thereof for engaging the base ring.
- Claim 9. (Currently amended) The gas cylinder base of claim 7 wherein the at least one fastener is insertable into at least one base ring aperture.
- Claim 10. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the support element comprises a continuous support ring.
- Claim 11. (Currently amended) The gas cylinder base of claim 10 wherein the support ring terminates along an inner edge in a radially-inwardly sloping chamfered end.
- Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the support element comprises a plurality of discontinuous lugs.
- Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The gas cylinder base of claim 12 wherein each lug terminates in a radially-inwardly sloping chamfered end.
- Claim 14. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the base skirt is circular.
- Claim 15. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the support element is coaxial with the base skirt.
- Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The gas cylinder base of claim 1 wherein the support element comprises at least one detent.
- Claim 17. (Original) A gas cylinder support assembly comprising:
- a gas cylinder having a base ring attached thereto comprising at least one base ring aperture therethrough, and
 - a gas cylinder base comprising
 - a base skirt having a first lateral dimension, and
 - a support element extending upwardly from the base skirt, defining a second lateral dimension less than the first lateral dimension, and adapted to slidably receive the

Serial No. 10/604,008
Filed: June 20, 2003
Page 4 of 17

Examiner: Amy J. Sterling
Group Art Unit: 3632

base ring of the gas cylinder, the support element comprising at least one fastener for attaching the gas cylinder base to the gas cylinder,

wherein the at least one fastener is adapted to engage the base ring to attach the gas cylinder base to the gas cylinder.

Claim 18. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 17 wherein the diameter of the base skirt is greater than the diameter of the gas cylinder.

Claim 19. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 17 wherein the support element further comprises at least one aperture therethrough.

Claim 20. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 19 wherein the at least one aperture is threaded.

Claim 21. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 20 wherein the at least one fastener is threaded.

Claim 22. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 21 wherein the fastener is a thumb screw.

Claim 23. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 21 wherein the at least one fastener is threadably inserted into the at least one aperture.

Claim 24. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 21 wherein the at least one fastener is provided with a point at an end thereof for engaging the base ring.

Claim 25. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 24 wherein the at least one fastener is inserted into the at least one base ring aperture.

Claim 26. (Original) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 17 wherein the support element comprises a continuous support ring.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 26 wherein the support ring terminates along an inner edge in a radially-inwardly sloping chamfered end.

Serial No. 10/604,008
Filed: June 20, 2003
Page 5 of 17

Examiner: Amy J. Sterling
Group Art Unit: 3632

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) The gas cylinder support assembly of claim 17 wherein the support element comprises a plurality of discontinuous lugs.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) The gas cylinder base of claim 28 wherein each lug terminates in a radially-inwardly sloping chamfered end.

Claim 30. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 17 wherein the base skirt is circular.

Claim 31. (Original) The gas cylinder base of claim 17 wherein the support element is coaxial with the base skirt.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) The gas cylinder base of claim 17 wherein the support element comprises at least one detent.